

### **REMARKS**

Claims 1-26 were originally filed in the application. Claims 18 and 20-24 have been withdrawn from consideration, pending the allowance of the remaining claims. The present Amendment cancels claim 16, and adds new claim 27. Claim 19 has been amended to add language inadvertently deleted in a prior amendment, and which is supported by the original disclosure.

The drawings have been objected to under 37 C.F.R. §1.83(a) for failing to show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Specifically, the Office Action objected to the feature of the sleeve slot and/or a horn slot of the clamp being filled with an elastomer, which was recited in claim 16. The cancellation of 16 in the present Amendment has rendered the objection moot, and Applicant respectfully requests its withdrawal.

Claims 1-17, 19, 25, and 26 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite.

Claim 1 has been rejected because it was unclear how to interpret the limitation "a common grip surface and/or a common holding surface." Applicant has amended claim 1 to eliminate the "and/or a common holding surface" language. In addition, the relationship between the supporting portion and holding portion of the grip element, the clamp and clamping area, and sleeve is described at least at p. 11, paragraph 2 of the specification, and shown in Fig. 1. The holding portion 34 forms a common gripping surface with supporting portion 32, and extends toward an end of the handlebar 12 where clamping means 20 is located. There is a distance between holding portion 34 and sleeve 10, so that clamping means 20 may be attached to sleeve 10 in clamping area 18.

Claims 2, 7, 10, and 12 have been rejected because it was unclear as to whether Applicant was claiming the palm. Applicant never intended to claim a palm. The

present amendments to claims 2, 7, 10, and 12 further clarify what is to be claimed.

Claim 6 has been rejected because the term "vice/versa" was unclear. Applicant has removed this language from claim 6.

Claims 8 and 16 have been rejected for the use of the limitation "and/or." Applicant respectfully submits that claim 8 was previously amended to eliminate this language, and that claim 8 is currently in proper form. As previously discussed, claim 16 has been cancelled.

Claim 11 has been rejected for the use of the language "particularly effecting a positive connection..." This feature has been cancelled from claim 11, and added in new claim 27. Thus, claims 11 and 27 are in proper form.

Claim 13 has been rejected because it was deemed unclear which elements were meant by "both." Applicant has amended claim 13 to correct any ambiguity.

Claim 15 has been rejected for use of the term "gel-like." Applicant has cancelled this feature from claim 15.

Applicant respectfully submits that the present amendments have sufficiently addressed the rejection of claims 1-17, 19, 25, and 26 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, and requests that the rejection be withdrawn.

Claims 1-17, 19, 25, and 26 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by United States Patent No. 6,421,879 to Gratz et al. ("Gratz") Applicant respectfully traverses. Claims 1 and 4 are independent.

Gratz is directed to a clamping grip with a sleeve, particularly for use on bicycle handlebars. (Abstract) In one embodiment, clamping grip 8 has a curved section 25 having a projection 26, which is "aligned essentially parallel to the road and forwards in

its intended mounting on a bicycle.” (col. 9, l. 46-51)

Claim 1 recites a bicycle bar grip. The grip comprises, *inter alia*, a grip element that comprises a supporting portion for supporting a palm of a user.

Gratz fails to disclose or suggest a supporting portion for supporting a palm of a user, as required in claim 1. The Office Action cites curved section 25 of Gratz as reading on the claimed supporting portion. Curved section 25, however, is meant to support the fingers of a user, not the palm, as required in claim 1. Gratz states that there is a bulge 27 on the underside of curved section 25, which provides the user's fingertips with a secure grip. (col. 9, l. 57-59) The only mention of the palm of the user is how the upper side of projection 26 can provide a grip surface for a palm, but only because the fingers of the user wrap around projection 26. (col. 9, l. 60-61) This interpretation of Gratz is verified by the fact that, as discussed above, curved section 25 is oriented in a forward direction with respect to the motion of the bicycle. As shown in Fig. 1, supporting portion 32 projects in a direction away from the motion of the bicycle, or toward the user, in order to provide a better support for the user's palm.

Claim 1 also recites, *inter alia*, a holding portion that projects into a clamping area at a distance from a sleeve. This feature is absent in Gratz. The Office Action again cites curved section 25 as reading on the claimed holding portion, but in Fig. 9b there is no clamp or clamping area at all. Thus, there can be no holding portion that projects into a clamping area at a distance from a sleeve, as required by claim 1. There is no distance between curved portion 25 and sleeve 1, as required by the holding portion of claim 1.

Therefore, claim 1 is patentable over Gratz. Claims 2, 3, 6-15, 17, 19, and 25-27 all depend from claim 1, and are also patentable over Gratz for at least the reasons provided above.

Claim 4 recites a bicycle bar grip that comprises, *inter alia*, a grip element that

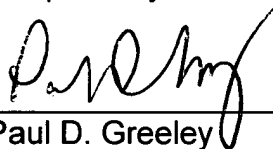
comprises a supporting portion for supporting a palm. As previously discussed, Gratz fails to disclose or suggest a supporting portion for supporting a palm, as required by claim 4. Therefore, claim 4 is patentable over Gratz, as is claim 5, which depends therefrom.

Therefore, the rejection of claims 1-15, 17, 19, 25, and 26 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Gratz has been overcome. Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection be reconsidered and withdrawn.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance. Such action is solicited.

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Respectfully submitted,



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Paul D. Greeley  
Registration No. 31,019  
Attorney for Applicant(s)  
Ohlandt, Greeley, Ruggiero & Perle, L.L.P.  
1 Landmark Sq., 10th Floor  
Stamford, CT 06901